

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-01

OC-01 CCO-00 SY-04 FBO-02 USSS-00 /060 W

----- 069211

O 210655Z NOV 74 ZFF-6 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7078

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USDEL KYOTO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7781

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 3

E.O. 11652: GDS

E

TAGXYC PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY

REF: SEOUL 7633

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1245 NOV 21 A GROUP OF 15-20 KOREAN WOMEN, REPORTEDLY MOTHERS AND WIVES OF THOSE ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES, STAGED DEMONSTRATION ON EMBASSY GROUNDS. ALSO INVOLVED IN DEMONSTRATION WAS AMERICAN MARYKNOLL PRIEST JAMES SINNOTT ARRESTED AND RELEASED NOV 14 FOR DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES (REFTEL). FOLLOWING IS RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS.

2. WOMEN REPORTEDLY HELD PRAYER MEETING MORNING NOV 21 FOR FAILED RELATIVES, THEN PROCEEDED TO EMBASSY. THEY ENTERED LOBBY IN SMALL GROUPS. ONCE IN LOBBY, THEY UNROLLED BANNERS CALLING FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL
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PRISONERS AND QUESTIONING WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WAS

SUPPORTING YUSHIN DICTATORSHIP. EMBASSY GUARDS AND MARINES MOVED GROUP WITHOUT VIOLENCE OUT OF LOBBY INTO PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. BEFORE GUARDS COULD GET THEM TO LEAVE, HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATORS SAT DOWN AND BEGAN CHANTING ABOUT TEN FEET INSIDE PARKING LOT ENTRANCE. NBC CAMERAMEN AND PRESS, CLEARLY ALERTED IN ADVANCE BY DEMONSTRATORS, WERE WAITING OUTSIDE EMBASSY GATE FOR PICTURE OPPORTUNITY. KOREAN PRESS ALSO ALERTED TO DEMONSTRATION IN ADVANCE.

3. WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE NEXT ALERTED KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE (NPD) BY PHONE TO FACT THAT DEMONSTRATION IN PROCESS WHICH EMBASSY GUARDS WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING. RIOT POLICE ARRIVED ON SCENE SHORTLY BEFORE 1300. ONE POLICEMAN RAN INTO EMBASSY COMPOUND WITHOUT CHECKING WITH GUARD AND BEGAN TO RIP BANNERS FROM HANDS DEMONSTRATORS.

4. AT THIS POINT FATHER SINNOTT ENTERED COMPOUND, SHOVED POLICEMAN, KNOCKED HIS HAT OFF, AND BEGAN WRESTLING MATCH. OTHER POLICE QUICKLY ENTERED PARKING LOT WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON SCENE AND BEGAN ROUNDING UP DEMONSTRATORS.

5. ACTING POL SECTION CHIEF AND OTHER EMOFFS WITH HELP OF EMBASSY LOCALS SPOKE TO OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF POLICE AND ASKED THAT POLICE:

(A). IMMEDIATELY STOP USE OF FORCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS.

(B) LEAVE EMBASSY PROPERTY, AND

(C) NOT ARREST DEMONSTRATORS.

POLICE, HOWEVER, PAID NO ATTENTION TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL, LOADED WOMEN ON BUS AND DROVE OFF. FATHER SINNOTT EXACERBATED SITUATION BY SHOUTING BLASPHEMOUS LANGUAGE AT POLICE FROM REMOVING DEMONSTRATORS. SINNOTT DEPARTED SCENE IN POLICE JEEP. DEMONSTRATION WAS OVER BY 1300 HOURS.

6. AT 1300 HOURS DCM CALLED MOFA ASSISTANT FOREIGN
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MINISTER KIM CHUN TAE HIGHEST LEVEL MOFA OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, TO INFORM HIM THAT POLICE HAD ENTERED EMBASSY GROUNDS WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM U.S. OFFICIALS AND THAT U.S. MIGHT HAVE TO PROTEST THIS ACTION. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO SHORTLY AFTERWARDS CALLED BACK AND OFFERED "DEEP APOLOGIES" FOR INCIDENT. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AT DIRECTION OF PRIME MINISTER, CALLED AMBASSADOR TO ALSO APOLOGIZE

AND INFORM HIM THAT WOMEN HAD BEEN RELEASED. ASST. CHIEF KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE(KNP) CALLED EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER TO EXPRESS REGRET AND OFFER EXPLANATION THAT LOW LEVEL POLICE OFFICER ON SCENE HAD ACTED WITHOUT CLEARANCE AND THAT KNP WELL AWARE THAT PERMISSION REQUIRED TO ENTER EMBASSY PROPERTY. WE HAVE INFORMED MOFA THAT WE WILL NOT MAKE FURTHER PROTEST IN VIEW OF EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE CALL AND SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL APOLOGIES.

7. WE HAVE ISSUED FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE:

QTE. AT APPROXIMATELY 12:45 TODAY A GROUP OF KOREAN WOMEN CONDUCTED AN UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION WITHIN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOUND. KOREAN POLICE ENTERED THE COMPOUND WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS. THE EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET FROM THE APPROPRIATE KOREAN OFFICIALS FOR THE ENTRY BY THE POLICE AND HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE WOMEN HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE EMBASSY IS APPRECIATIVE OF BOTH THESE ACTIONS. THE EMBASSY WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS MATTER. UNQTE.
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Message Attributes

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